

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

HOMELAND SECURITY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Colonel Peter P. Flores

Lieutenant Colonel Craig Hunter

The following Homeland Security Executive Summary focuses on the homeland security funding received by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Law Enforcement, and its subsequent impact on the Division.

SUMMARY

By statute (ART. 2.12 Code of Criminal Procedure), game wardens commissioned by TPWD (SEC.11.019 Parks and Wildlife Code) are sworn Texas peace officers. The functional job description of game wardens remains focused on the traditional enforcement of game, fish, and water safety laws. However, events such as 9/11 and the influx of recent hurricanes plus the issues with the Mexican Border have impacted the peace officer duties of all Texas lawmen at the local, state, and national levels.

With support from the Governor's office and the Texas Legislature, TPWD has received homeland security funding for additional game wardens, law enforcement equipment, and operating funds. TPWD Law Enforcement Senior Management views this funding as a "win-win" situation between conservation enforcement efforts and our sworn duties as peace officers. The funding has not refocused our primary mission of the enforcement of game, fish and water safety laws. TPWD's priorities remain resource protection and public safety. TPWD's increased border presence also supports Texas as a "force multiplier," by providing enforcement assistance and intelligence to other law enforcement entities. For the record, the TPWD Law Enforcement Division does not enforce illegal immigration. This is a federal issue and enforcement is under the purview of the U.S. Border Patrol. TPWD game wardens arrest suspects (including illegal aliens) for violations of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code,

which includes the Texas Water Safety Act, and the Texas Penal Code. TPWD has not been asked or required to change our method of operation due to increased funding.

FUNDING

<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Impact</u>
80 th Legislature	\$2,125,193.00	15 GWs/Vehicles/Computers
81 st Legislature	4,262,933.11	15 GWs/Boat Motors/Airboats
Border Operations	2,223,634.24	Enhanced Operations
SAFE Boat Grants	2,947,461.00	11 SAFE Boats
PSIC Grant	<u>1,000,000.00</u>	Radios/Communications
Total	\$12,559,221.35	

(Note: Detailed funding information attached pages 4 and 5)

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Texas Game Wardens historically operate where no other Texas law enforcement officers do. Doing TPWD's part in homeland security has enhanced TPWD's conservation enforcement capabilities. Most importantly, TPWD Law Enforcement Senior Management believes the Division has effectively balanced this legislative mandate with our core responsibilities. TPWD feels extremely comfortable the wardens have fulfilled their sworn peace officer duties while functioning in the most comprehensive conservation law enforcement program in the United States of America.

Border Funds

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>Amount</u>
80th Legislature	\$2,125,193.00
81st Legislature	4,262,933.11
Border Operations	2,223,634.24
SAFE Boat Grants	2,947,461.00
*PSIC Grant	<u>1,000,000.00</u>
Total	\$12,559,221.35

*Public Safety Interoperable
Communications Grant

Border Operations

<u>AY</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2006	\$364,992.34
2007	327,046.45
2008	509,793.17
2009	<u>1,021,802.28</u>
TOTAL	\$2,223,634.24

80th Legislature

	<u>Amount</u>
<u>2008 Rider 32 Border Security</u>	<u>\$1,270,793.00</u>
Salary	672,746.00
Operating	178,047.00
15 Vehicles/Airboat	400,000.00
15 Computers	20,000.00
<u>2009 Rider 32 Border Security</u>	<u>\$854,400.00</u>
Salary	662,611.00
Operating	191,789.00
<u>Total 80th Legislature</u>	<u>\$2,125,193.00</u>
2008 Total	1,270,793.00
2009 Total	854,400.00

81st Legislature

<u>2010 Rider 21 Border Security</u>	<u>\$1,062,596.00</u>
Salary	690,314.00
Operating	162,086.00
Capital - Boat Motors/Airboats	210,196.00
<u>2011 Rider 21 Border Security</u>	<u>\$1,062,596.00</u>
Salary	723,740.00
Operating	338,856.00
<u>2010 - Article IX, Sec 17.04 (1) BUDGETED</u>	<u>\$700,000.00</u>
Salary	364,632.00
Operating	272,890.00
Night Vision Goggles	62,478.00
<u>2011 - Article IX, Sec 17.04 (1) BUDGETED</u>	<u>\$700,000.00</u>
Salary	557,815.00
Operating	142,185.00
<u>2010 - Article IX, Sec 17.04 (2) BUDGETED</u>	<u>\$125,000.00</u>
Operating	100,231.00
2 Kawasaki Mules (ATVs)	24,769.00
<u>2011 - Article IX, Sec 17.04 (2) BUDGETED</u>	<u>\$125,000.00</u>
Operating	125,000.00
<u>2010 - Article IX, Sec 14 - Safeboats</u>	<u>\$487,741.11</u>
<u>Total 81st Legislature</u>	<u>\$4,262,933.11</u>
2010 Total	2,375,337.11
2011 Total	1,887,596.00